

Proposed Minutes
Friend of the Court Bureau
Advisory Committee Annual Meeting
State Court Administrative Office - Lansing, MI
Thursday, October 9, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Bill Brooks, Hon. Mabel Mayfield, Murray Davis, Patti Holden, Nadine Klein, Anthony Paruk, Fred Lebowitz and Mike Keeler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Cunningham, Gail Schneider-Negrinelli, and Lynn Bullard

STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Beeman and Darla Brandon

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brooks at 9:40 a.m.

Dr. Brooks introduced Kelly Beeman to the Committee. She is the new SCAO management analyst that will be working with the Advisory Committee.

a. Reappointments

The State Court Administrator reappointed three current members to another three year term. Those are: Judge Mabel Mayfield: Attorney/Judge; Murray Davis: Public Member; and Dr. Brooks: Human Services Professional. The new member that was appointed is Fred Lebowitz of Oakland County: Human Services Professional. There is currently one vacancy left for a Human Services Professional.

b. Annual Business Meeting

i. Election of Chairperson – Mr. Davis made a motion nominating Dr. Brooks to resume the chair position. Motion seconded by Judge Mayfield and Ms. Holden. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ii. Election of Vice Chair – Ms. Holden made a motion nominating Judge Mayfield to resume the Vice Chair position. Motion seconded by Ms. Klein. **Motion passed unanimously.**

iii. Committee Bylaws – There are no proposed changes to the Bylaws.

iv. Meeting Dates – 1/8/04, 4/8/04, 7/8/04, and 10/7/04. The meetings will be at the Hall of Justice, Lansing, MI at 9:30 a.m.

- v. Correspondence – Kevin Wooden letter. Mr. Wooden sent a letter regarding the wrongful interception of his taxes. Mr. Bartels provided him with the appropriate information with respect to his case.

2. **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

a. Approval of the July 10, 2003 Minutes

The July 10 minutes will reflect that Steve Capps and Timothy Cole were present at that meeting. Mr. Paruk suggested that under Legislative Update after the sentence that, “Mr. Capps provided the handout, insert and overview of the bills that passed and/or are pending in the House. A motion by Judge Mayfield to accept the July 10 minutes with amendments, seconded by Ms. Klein. **Motion passed unanimously.** In the future minutes, all SCAO staff that are present at the meeting will be noted. After public attendance, there would be an addition of “Public Comment” that would include individuals that approach the Committee. The friendly amendment would be Public Attendance would change to Public Comment and Staff Present, would include Staff Present and special staff reports. **Motion passed unanimously.**

b. Public Comment

Daniel Diebolt of Washtenaw County. He discussed the public body and Open Meetings Act with the respect of the Advisory Committee. He also discussed the active Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs). He spoke about Washtenaw County not having a CAC. He provided a tape for the Committee to review.

Ramarao Srinivasa of Washtenaw County. He discussed the Washtenaw County FOC. He believes there is not a good hiring criteria or performance evaluations for custody evaluators and mediators.

Keith Hieber of Clare County. He provided the Committee with handouts regarding the MI Child Support Guidelines and defining the needs of the children, and the actual cost of raising children in a two household situation.

Committee Comments

Mr. Davis encouraged the Committee to attempt to come up with some ideas to become more involved in the CACs becoming active.

Mr. Paruk asked that what the mechanism would be for requesting additional supplemental material from a public comment citizen. Dr. Brooks responded that an individual could

provide a specific member of the Committee to review and provide a synopsis to the Committee.

Ms. Beeman will review the videotape and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

2004 Access & Visitation Grants

Mr. Tim Cole provided the Committee with a synopsis of the Access & Visitation Grant process. For FY 2004, the SCAO was given the responsibility to disburse \$281,813.00 for these grants. Sixteen counties applied for grant funds. Twelve counties were selected to receive funding. The selection committee looks at various variables, such as; would the program be available without the funding, and how many families will benefit from the services. The idea is that eventually these programs will become self sufficient. Many of the counties that were selected provide supervised parenting time to help facilitate healthy relationships with their children.

Mr. Cole will provide a list of the proposals that were approved to the Committee.

- c. Subcommittee Reports - The subcommittee is currently not meeting.
- d. Child Support Formula Manual - Under review by the Supreme Court.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Grievance Form – This is currently still being reviewed.
- b. Procedures for Public Comment - The Committee was provided with a draft of the public comment guidelines for review.

Judge Mayfield made a motion to strike the first four words of the second paragraph. Mr. Paruk seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.** The Committee also agreed to change the last paragraph so that it starts with ‘The committee may request....written comments.... [and/or supporting documents] (add) and ‘to speak [further] (add)..... **Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Klein made a motion that the guidelines include as a separate paragraph, [The committee will consider each individual comment and take action or make referrals where appropriate]. (add) **Motion passed unanimously.**

Judge Mayfield made a motion to strike the last sentence in the second paragraph. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the guidelines as amended. Judge Mayfield seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- c. Custody Investigation Standards - Ms. Beeman provided a handout to the committee of a law that requires FOC investigators to be trained or certified. Mr. Keeler stated that job titles are used differently from office to office.

Mr. Davis made a motion recommending that a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee be established. Ms. Holden seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Appointments to the subcommittee are: Mike Keeler, Fred Lebowitz, Patti Holden, and Dr. Brooks. The committee is called Custody Evaluation and Investigation Subcommittee. The subcommittee would meet prior to the Advisory committee.

- d. Citizen Advisory Committee - The Committee had discussion about various issues with respect to the CACs and their role and the reluctance of some county commissioners to form one.

Judge Mayfield made a motion to establish a standing subcommittee to produce a work product with respect to the CACs. Ms. Holden seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Appointments to the subcommittee are: Murray Davis, Nadine Klein, Anthony Paruk, and Gail Negrinelli.

Mr. Paruk suggested that each member bring in their county's model friend of the court handbook to compare and review.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

5. **CLOSING**

- a. Members Closing Comments – Mr. Davis stated that he would like to be appointed to the Child Support Formula Subcommittee. Ms Holden stated that she would like to stay a member of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is currently not active.

- b. Final Public Comment – Mr. Diebolt discussed court rule 8.113. Mr. Hieber discussed educating people about the system.
- c. Next Meeting Date – January 8, 2004
- d. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Brandon
Friend of the Court Bureau